

Unveiling the Link: Analyzing the Effects of Medicaid Expansion under the ACA on Child Maltreatment

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Research Question

- Examine the causal relationship between Medicaid expansion and child maltreatment.
- I want to focus on multiple channels of impact on child maltreatment:
 - financial stability felt by parents due to Medicaid expansion.
 - mental health improvements

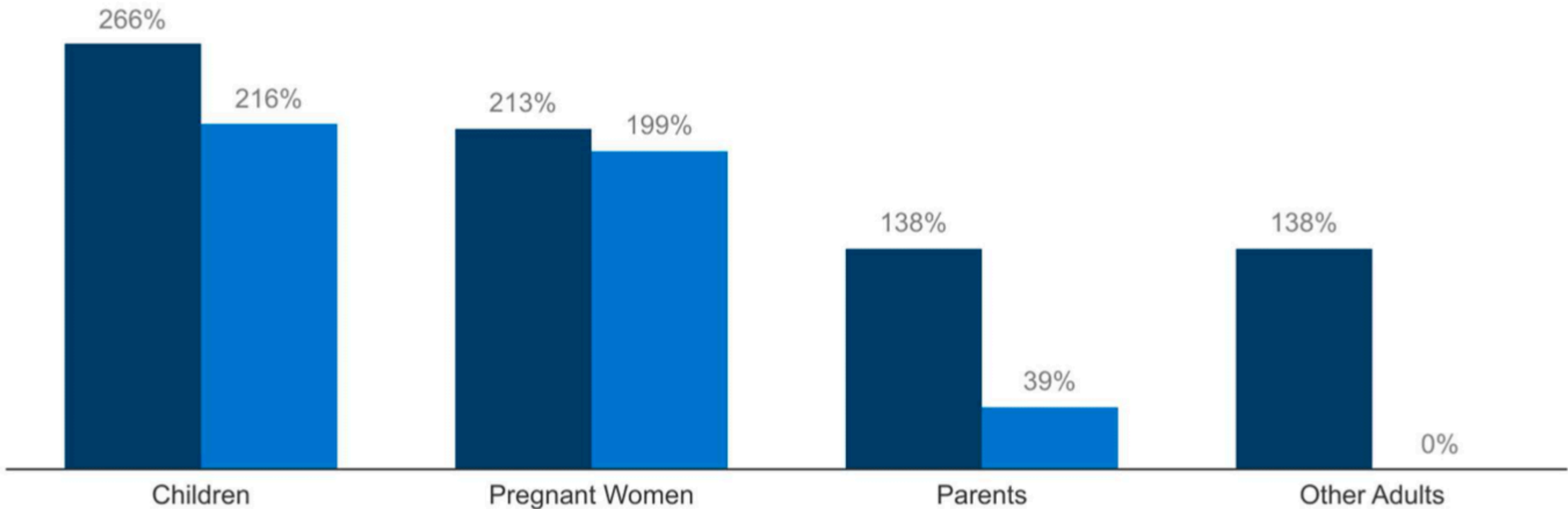
Insurance Coverage

Figure 14

Median Medicaid Income Eligibility Limits Based On Implementation Of Medicaid Expansion, January 2022

Eligibility Limits Are Represented as % FPL:

■ Expansion States ■ Non-Expansion States



NOTE: Eligibility levels are based on a family of three for parents and an individual for childless adults. In 2022, the FPL was \$23,030 for a family of three and \$13,590 for an individual. Threshold include the standard five percentage point of FPL disregard.

SOURCE: Based on results from a national survey conducted by KFF and the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, 2022.



Types of Child Maltreatment

- According to WHO, child maltreatment is all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence, and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care.

- In 2020, 618,000 children were maltreated in US, 76% of these reports were child neglect

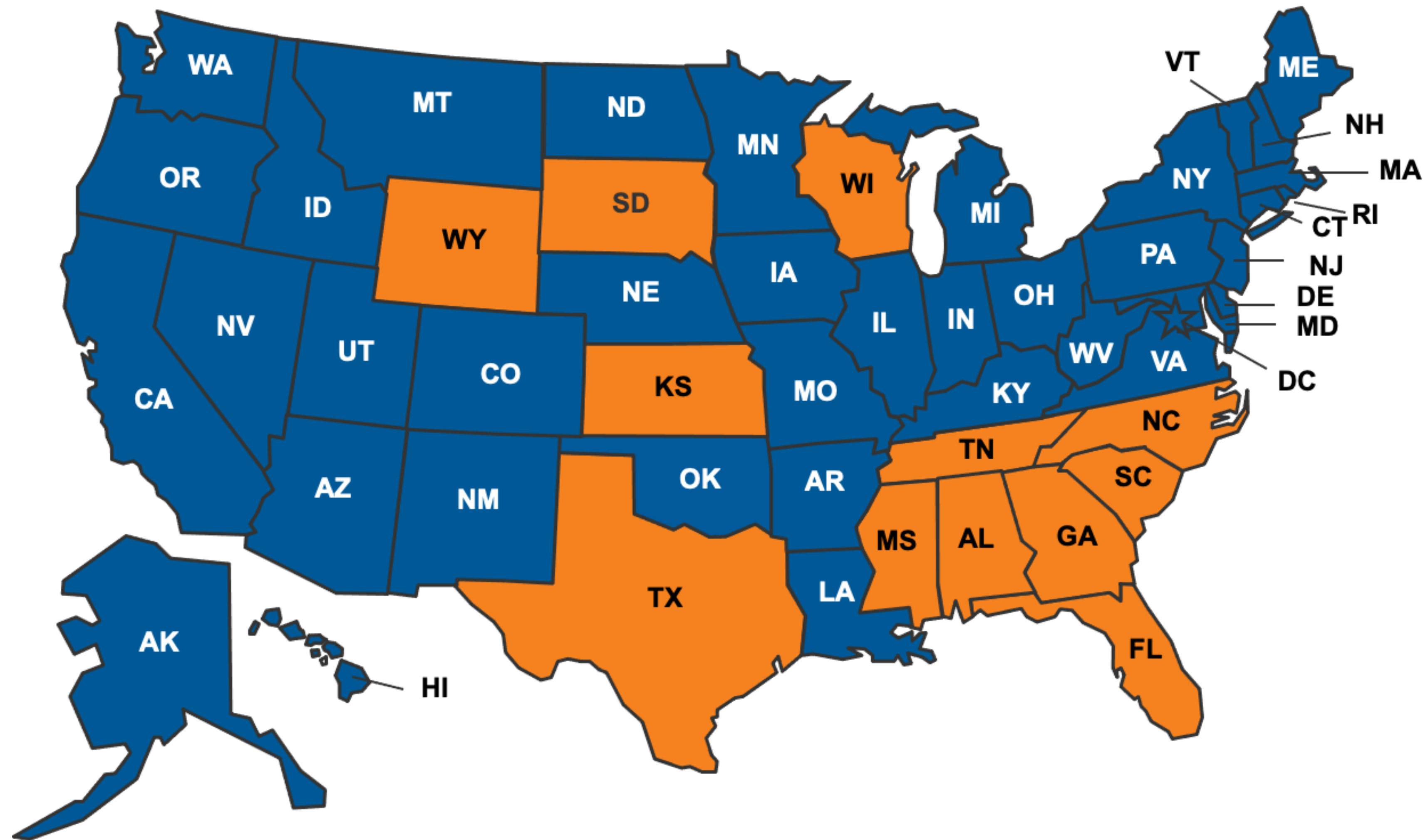
Child Maltreatment

- Child maltreatment is a large and growing problem in the United States
- Significant consequences of child maltreatment:
 - increased risk for behavioral health issues like substance abuse
 - medical issues
 - lower socioeconomic status into adulthood
- Determinants of child abuse and neglect:
 - correlated to the economic health of the families (Berger and Waldfogel 2011)
 - Lack of social safety net policies (Paxson 2002, Klevens et. al. 2015)

Health Insurance and the ACA

- ACA aimed to reduce the number of uninsured by providing a continuum of affordable coverage options through Medicaid and the Health Insurance Marketplaces.
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for low-income adults to 138% of the FPL
- 39 states (including DC) have expanded Medicaid and 12 states have not expanded.
- Medicaid expansion has:
 - improved access to care (Courtemanche et al. 2018)
 - preventive care utilization
 - increased substance use disorder medications (Maclean & Saloner 2019)
 - admissions to substance abuse treatment facilities

Status of Medicaid Expansion



NOTES: Current status for each state is based on KFF tracking and analysis of state activity. See link below for additional state-specific notes.

SOURCE: "Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision," KFF State Health Facts, updated June 15, 2022. <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/>

How Medicaid Expansion can Impact Child Maltreatment

- According to Child Maltreatment Report 2020, caregiver risk factors are those reported with domestic violence and drug abuse - Medicaid expansion has led to increased drug abuse treatment
- Insurance coverage for parents in expansion vs non-expansion states has massive differences:
 - Expansion states: eligibility increased from 64% FPL in 2009 to 138% FPL in 2020 for parents
 - Non-expansion states: Mean eligibility for parents was 41% as of 2020

Discussion of Mechanisms

- Majority (~77%) of perpetrators are a parent to the victim.
- Increased financial protection for the parents can lead to less neglect of the child.
- Another aspect- increased interaction with medical personnel which could potentially make abuse or neglect easier to detect.

Data

- National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System for child abuse and neglect rates
 - an administrative dataset that collects and analyses data on child abuse and neglect from the 50 states and DC.
- Data is at the state level including information about different types of abuse and abuse rates by the age of the child
- Child victim data for 2008-2020
- Medicaid expansion data from Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)- the expansion was staggered.
- National Welfare Data for data regarding unemployment rates, poverty rate, etc.

More Data

- Parental eligibility percentage 2008-2019
- Rate of Teen pregnancy, single parent, Median income of households with children, percentage residents of the state are Black